



## “OH, CHRISTMAS TREE” VERSES HIGHLIGHT TREE LIGHTING IN WITTENBERG

An appreciative crowd listened to a selection of Christmas carols, along with several invitations to sing along, from the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School chorus during the lighting of the village Christmas tree Dec. 4. Santa also made an appearance. The crowd was invited to hang ornaments on the tree. More photos are on page X.

David Wilhelms | NEW Media

### Katchenago brings culture to class

Harold Katchenago brings his Native influences to his sixth graders at Bowler Elementary School.

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### Alcohol, loss drive mystery

Low self-esteem, alcohol fuel a mystery death in “Who Killed Anne-Marie?” reviewed by Jan Jones.

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### Foster, Rew garner honors

WBHS senior McKenna Foster named Player of the Year, Becky Rew was named Coach of the Year for volleyball

**PAGE 46**



**PACKERS CAN  
BREAK OUT IF  
THEY DON'T  
BREAK DOWN**

**GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS  
PAGES 21-32**

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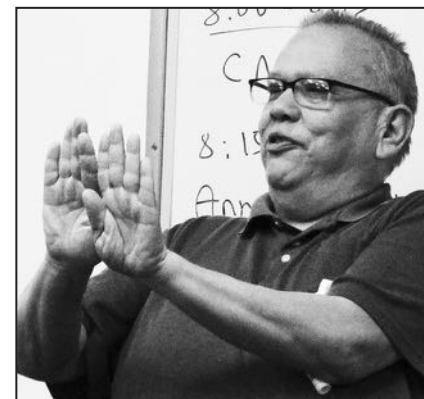
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# Katchenago brings native culture into lessons



**Harold Katchenago, Bowler teacher, applies some “body English” in telling a story about learning native hospitality expectations when he was a new Head Start worker as part of a lesson for his native and non-native sixth graders Dec. 3. He said he pulls a lot in his teaching style from growing up with his elders. Calling them a “living library,” he said they demonstrated their values by how they lived their lives. Key to those lessons were tolerance and patience. For his students in the here and now, he stays flexible in finding “whatever interests them, whatever grabs their enthusiasm. Whatever I have planned isn’t set in stone. Maybe there’s some question or some circumstance that’s of interest, then I will switch gears,” he said. A comment about hunting can lead to a discussion that then leads back into the math lesson, Katchenago added.**

DAVID WILHELMS

## Students incorporate respect, knowledge of neighbors

By **DAVID WILHELMS**

Reporter

Sixth grade teacher Harold Katchenago makes his experiences as a powwow announcer, a drummer and student of native languages a central part of teaching his students at Bowler Elementary School.

A Dec. 3 lesson was no exception. In discussing the Ghost Feast or Spirit Supper — a Native American tradition similar to the Latino Día de Muertos — Katchenago, who has worked for the district for 15 years, infused his upbringing with his lessons as an enrolled Menominee tribal member into the description.

“This is a feast to remember your ancestors. Even though they’re gone, you remember them,” he told his class, which includes Native and non-Native students, while mixing in stories of his own childhood in the feasts.

He remembers the requirement that the cooks can’t taste the food while it’s being made. While the family often gathers around a fire outside, a girl between 5 and 10 years old is then called on to fill a plate, usually accompanied by her mother or a grandmother into the darkened house.

She then presents the plate to the oldest male present who prays or makes a statement over the food before throwing into a fire to give it



**Harold Katchenago's sixth graders dig into the raw materials for an art project. They are, from left to right, Jacob Jonet, Jeremy Mohawk, Cooper Christman, Leah Thorson and Abigail Jose-Hernandez.**

DAVID WILHELMS | NEW MEDIA

to their ancestors.

“Then we go inside for a real ‘pig out,’” he added, especially with foods that were favorites of departed family members.

Katchenago added somewhat wistfully that his family hadn’t done the feast in a while, but he shrugged and said they might do something in January. When asked, a few students said they had done something similar.

“When you’re looking for something to do in these times, it’s a good way to remember someone special,” he said.

The story reinforces the native importance on family, and part of that is trust. Katchenago said, “I treat all of you like you were my nieces and nephews because your parents have

shown that trust in me.”

Moving between teaching subjects like math to application of native customs and attitudes comes easily to Katchenago.

He said he pulls a lot in his teaching style from growing up with his elders. Calling them a “living library,” he said they demonstrated their values by how they lived their lives. Keys to those lessons were tolerance and patience.

For his students in the here and now, he stays flexible in finding “whatever interests them; whatever grabs their enthusiasm. Whatever I have planned isn’t set in stone. Maybe there’s some question or some circumstance that’s of interest, then I will switch gears,” he said.

A comment about hunting can lead to a discussion that then leads back into the math lesson, Katchenago said.

When his students leave his classroom in May, through applying his native perspectives, Katchenago said his goal is: “They know more about their neighbors, and we’ll see less of what we’ve seen this year. The more you know your neighbors, the harder it is to act inappropriately.”

Katchenago takes a broad view of neighbors including not only the Stockbridge-Munsee Community in the Bowler area and Ho-Chunk in the Wittenberg area but also Chippewa, Lakotah and other ethnic communities such as Germans and Norwegians.

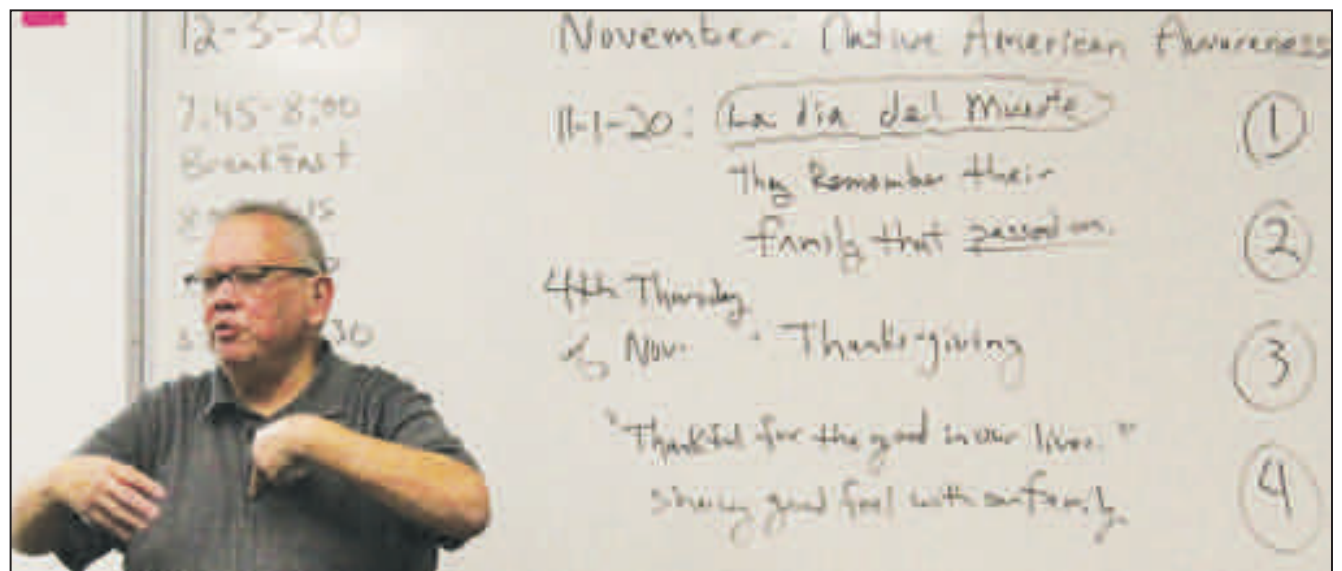
"I hope we can celebrate the unique differences and similarities between Native culture and our neighbors around us," he said. "Hopefully, by sharing, we close gaps of misunderstanding and create bridges of friendship and diversity of peoples."

Bowler School District's student enrollment is nearly half Native Americans, with the majority coming from the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe. Nearly 20 years ago, about one-third of Bowler students were Native Americans.

"With increased attendance at our school from our Native American community, it is important that we recognize and infuse their culture into our teaching," said Wade Turner, elementary school principal. "Not just for the month of November (which is Native American Heritage Month), but for the entire school year.

"Our teachers are always looking for resources to reach our students with engaging lessons that teach our students about the rich Native American culture. We can always do a better job at recognizing this important culture."

Although Katchenago infuses Native American history and traditions in his teaching throughout the school year, he pays particular attention dur-



Harold Katchenago, sixth grade teacher at Bowler Elementary School, describes how his experiences in introducing himself to parents of Head Start students also introduced him to the central nature of food and drink in native hospitality. He confided that four visits to parents in a day meant just too much food even when it included corn soup — a native specialty and one of his favorites.

CONTRIBUTED

ing November.

"I try to look at different traditions of my tribe to share with my students and other tribes who call Wisconsin their home," he said.

Katchenago can also speak from experience.

He has performed at powwows and community feasts, such as the annual sturgeon feast in the spring.

He has also attended ceremonies

like the sweat lodge.

Applying what he heard and learned helps him to respond to Act 31, a state statute that requires all public schools in Wisconsin and in-service teaching programs to provide instruction on the history and culture of federally recognized Indian nations and tribal communities.

Staff are encouraged to attend training on Act 31 to provide in-depth

information and facilitate discussion with their students on American Indian Studies in Wisconsin.

Third grade teacher Lori Mueller has compiled a Native American resource library, including more than 130 items that she shares with her Bowler colleagues.

"I hope they enjoy the resources and learn from them as much as I have," said Mueller.



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## CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER 2020

The **40th annual Christmas Day Dinner** will be from 11:30 am through 1:00 pm on Friday, December 25th, 2020 at the Oconto Falls Senior Center. This will be curbside pickup (no in-facility dining) and also delivery as in the past, and will follow the current Wisconsin Covid 19 protocol.

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Please call (920) 848-2409 to make your reservation. Please leave a message- to include your name and phone number. We will call you back to confirm.

We look forward to seeing all of last year's guests and hope that there will be many new friends who will join us for this year's free dinner.

If anyone knows of an individual who will be alone for Christmas and would like to have a meal delivered, please call us to make arrangements.

In order to make sure we have enough for everyone, please respond by **December 16, 2020.**

THANK YOU!

# PUBLIC RECORD

## SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Dec. 7**  
Deputies responded to 29 calls, including reckless driving complaints on Spruce Road in the Town of Belle Plaine, state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman and state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon; a shoplifting complaint on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; a weapon offense complaint on Old 47 Road in the Town of Lessor; a criminal damage complaint on Knollwood Court in the Town of Wescott; and two accidents, both involving deer.

**Dec. 6**  
Deputies responded to 28 calls, including a reckless driving complaint on state Highway 47 in the Town of Lessor; a weapon offense on East Green Bay Street in Bonduel; a trespassing complaint on Emma Street in Aniwa; and seven accidents, with two being hit-and-run cases and the other five involving deer.

**Dec. 5**  
Deputies responded to 28 calls, including reckless driving complaints on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg and state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; a theft complaint on County Road Q in the Town of Almon; found property on state Highway 160 in the Town of Maple Grove; a death investigation on Elm Grove Road in the Town of Maple Grove; a bail jumping call on County Road Y in the Town of Belle Plaine; two criminal damage complaints on Old Lake Road in the

Town of Wescott; and six accidents, four involving deer.

**Dec. 4**  
Deputies responded to 40 calls, including a reckless driving complaint on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; a criminal damage complaint on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; a vicious animal complaint on Hillcrest Lane in the Town of Wescott; an ATV problem on County Road S in the Town of Lessor; and four accidents, two involving deer.

**Dec. 3**  
Deputies responded to 49 calls, including reckless driving complaints on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman, state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland, County Road D in the Town of Almon, state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris and Old Lake Road in the Town of Wescott; a property theft complaint on Robin Lane in the Town of Aniwa; a threatening complaint on Loon Lake Circle in the Town of Wescott; an operating while intoxicated call on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Birnamwood; and eight accidents, two involving deer.

**Dec. 2**  
Deputies responded to 38 calls, including found property calls on Red Oak Lane in the Town of Wittenberg and at John's One Stop, N5847 State Highway 47-55, Town of Wescott; reckless driving complaints on state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris and state Highway 160 in the Town of Angelica; fraud complaints on Wolf River Road in the Town of Richmond and Robin Road in the Town

of Wittenberg; a drug complaint at Taco John's, 412 N. Genesee St., Wittenberg; a juvenile runaway from Hemlock Road in the Town of Wittenberg; and five accidents, two involving deer.

**Dec. 1**  
No report was furnished to NEW Media before press time.

## SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Dec. 7**  
Officers responded to 25 calls, including a noise complaint in the 300 block of Madison Way; a harassment complaint in the 1100 block of South Lafayette Street; a fraud complaint in the 600 block of South Franklin Street; a controlled substance problem in an undisclosed location; a car vs. deer crash in the 1200 block of County Road B.

**Dec. 6**  
Officers responded to 13 calls, including a found ATM card at Associated Bank's ATM on East Green Bay Street; a warrant arrest at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.

**Dec. 5**  
Officers responded to nine calls, including a burglary under investigation at an undisclosed location; a disabled vehicle at Prairie and Franklin streets.

**Dec. 4**  
Officers responded to 11 calls, including a threatening complaint in the 500 block of South Main Street; a missing wallet at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St., Shawano; a two-vehicle injury accident in the 700 block of Waukechon Street.

**Dec. 3**  
Officers responded to 27 calls, including threatening complaints at the Super 8 motel, 211 Waukechon St., and at Cellcom, 511 N. Main St.; a stolen wedding ring in the 200 block of East Center Street; a noise complaint involving gunshots in the 500 block of South Union Street; a harassment complaint in the 900 block of East Elizabeth Street; an accident at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; a hit-and-run accident in the 1300 block of East Lieg Avenue.

**Dec. 2**  
Officers responded to 17 calls, including a trespassing complaint in the 500 block of East Seward Street; a property theft complaint involving a snowplow at Positive Electrics, 618 E. Green Bay St., and another property theft in the 700 block of South Lincoln Street; a found bicycle at St. James Lutheran School, 324 S. Andrews St.; a property damage complaint in the 800 block of South Franklin St.; missing person complaints in the 500 block of East Elizabeth Street and the 200 block of Highview Avenue.

**Dec. 1**  
Officers responded to 26 calls, including stray animal complaints at Fifth and Smalley streets, at Park and Elizabeth streets and at Lieg Avenue and Evergreen Street; reckless driving complaints in the 900 block of Olson Street and at Kentucky Fried Chicken, 102 N. Airport Drive; a complaint of juveniles stealing decorations off trees at Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St.

# COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County District Court include:

Joel L. Lehoullier, 37, Gresham, was charged Dec. 1 with two misdemeanor battery charges, both with repeater modifiers; possession of THC, second offense with a repeater modifier; possession of methamphetamine with a repeater modifier and a party to a crime modifier; possession of drug paraphernalia with a repeater modifier and a party to a crime modifier and two counts of felony bail jumping. A cash bond of \$60,000 was set and an adjourned initial appearance was set for Dec. 21.

Rochae R. Johnson, 31, Greenleaf,

was charged Dec. 2 with operating while revoked, resisting or obstructing an officer with a repeater modifier and three counts of felony bail jumping. A cash bond of \$1,500 was set. A preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 9.

Brandon J. Turney, 20, Shawano, was charged Dec. 3 with one count of disorderly conduct, one count of resisting or obstructing an officer and two counts of battery or threat to judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer. A cash bond of \$10,000 was set. An initial appearance will resume Dec. 14.

Britney M. Gavitt, 29, Wittenberg, was charged Dec. 3 with operating

without a valid license, second offense within three years and three counts of felony bail jumping, all with repeater modifiers. A cash bond of \$750 was signed. An initial appearance will resume Dec. 14.

Charges were filed Dec. 3 against Mason A. Boogren, 23, Shawano, for one count of strangulation/suffocation with a domestic abuse modifier, one count of battery with a domestic abuse modifier, one count of disorderly conduct with a domestic abuse modifier and one count of disorderly conduct. An initial appearance was set for Dec. 28.

Dale K. Matz, 52, Eland, was charged Dec. 4 with a fourth offense

of operating while intoxicated; one count of operating while revoked and one count of possession of THC, second offense. A cash bond of \$1,000 was signed. An initial appearance will resume Dec. 14.

Theresa A. Gunderson, 41, Birnamwood, was charged Dec. 7 with one count of burglary of a building with a repeater modifier; one count of resisting or obstructing an officer with a repeater modifier; one count of escape from a criminal arrest with a repeater modifier and three counts of felony bail jumping, all with repeater modifiers. A cash bond of \$4,000 was set. An initial appearance will resume Dec. 28.

# River Valley Church announces its Christmas Eve services

River Valley Church's Christmas Eve services will be at 3 p.m. and 5

p.m. Dec. 24.  
The church is located at 131 N.

Franklin St. in Shawano. Face masks are required for all in-person services.

The church also has online services at <https://www.rvcshawano.com>.

# Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support Center



Inspired to give this holiday season? Give a gift that will truly make a difference in someone's life.

**Urgent needs:** Paper towel, toilet paper, coffee, disinfectant sprays, gas cards (\$10), grocery store cards

For a complete list of needs, please check out our website or FaceBook page. Cash donations made December 1st-15th to CoVantage Cares at the Shawano locations will be matched & given to Safe Haven.



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[help@shawanoshelter.org](mailto:help@shawanoshelter.org)

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& Support Services  
[www.shawanoshelter.org](http://www.shawanoshelter.org)

CoVantage  
cares

**DECEMBER 1-15**

Giving  
**TUESDAY**

Tuesday, December 1st, nationally known as Giving Tuesday, kicks off the two-week period where the CoVantage Cares Foundation will match up to \$150,000 in total donations for local organizations.

**HELP BY MAKING A DONATION**

Donations and CoVantage Cares matches will stay within each local community that will benefit from your support.  
*Your local charity is:*

# SAFE HAVEN

Safe Haven Domestic  
Abuse & Sexual Assault  
Support Center

Visit [www.covantagecu.org/cares](http://www.covantagecu.org/cares) for more information.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# OBITUARIES

Gustave B. Weller Jr., age 88, of Wittenberg, died Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, at his home surrounded by his family.

Gus was born Oct. 26, 1932, in the Town of Franzen, Marathon County, the son of Gustave Sr. and Regina (Rogalla) Weller.

Gus served in the Army from 1950-1954 and was a member of the Bloecher-Johnson American Legion Post No. 502, Wittenberg.

On Aug. 30, 1958, Gus was united in marriage to Ann Philipp at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Shawano.

Gus worked for Marathon Electric for 41 years, retiring in 1995. The couple owned and operated the former Gus & Ann's Restaurant in Wittenberg from 1969 to 2003 and were members of the Wittenberg Chamber of Commerce for many years.



Gus loved anything John Deere and was a collector. If it had John Deere on it ... well, it may as well be in his collection. Gus enjoyed being outdoors and collected sap and made and sold maple syrup.

He was a member of Holy Family-St. William Catholic Church of Wittenberg, the Knights of Columbus and the Eland Historical Society.

He was also an active member of the Wittenberg Lion's Club, the Wittenberg Historical Society and the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Wisconsin. Gus enjoyed trout fishing and feeding and watching the birds.

Gus is survived by the love of his life, Ann; six children, Paul (Eileen) Weller Sr., Gus (Diane) Weller III, Mi-

chele Robinson, Linda (Rick) McMullin, Lisa (Paul) Wierzba and Jon (Desirae) Weller; 15 grandchildren, Paul (Beth) Weller Jr., Benjamin (Amber) Weller, Steven Weller, Daniel Weller, Charlie (Courtney) Weller, Stephanie (Jerome) VanKleef, Matthew (Carrie) Burazin, Rebecca (Zachary) Wieland, Jacob McMullin, Annalise (David Cunningham) McMullin, Allen (Brooke) Wierzba, Alicia Wierzba, Jessica (Zac) Strassburger, Zoey Yang and Amila Yang; honorary grandchild, Holly (Henry) Osterbrink; 13 great-grandchildren, Riley, Simon, Maxwell, Gwendolyn, Victoria, Lucy, Wyatt, Lincoln, Cameron, Remmi Jo, Easton, Ivory and Luke; and four honorary great-grandchildren, Nora, Rupert, Ellie May and Kara Lynn. He is further survived by his siblings, Joanne Witkowski, Dick (Marcia) Weller, Ronnie (Ginger) Weller, Shirley Geiser, Diane (Charlie) Rogalla, Cathy (Pat) Baker, Mike

(Carol) Weller, Greg (Diane) Weller, Theresa (Jeff) Schuh and Mark (Gloria) Weller and many nieces, nephews, in-laws, other relatives and friends.

Gus was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Rosalie 'Tootie' Dudzik and Connie Dilge and several in-laws.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at Holy Family-St. William Catholic Church, Wittenberg, with Rev. Matthew Settle presiding. Visitation was held Dec. 6 from 4-7:30 p.m. at Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg, with a Rosary recited at 7:30 p.m. Visitation continued Monday at the church beginning at 9:30 a.m. Burial will be in Holy Family Catholic Cemetery in Wittenberg with military rites conducted by the Bloecher-Johnson American Legion Post. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

## Donald Arthur Wendler

Donald Arthur Wendler, 68, of Wittenberg, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020, at Aspirus Hospice House.

He was born April 8, 1952, in the Town of Morris, Shawano County, the son of Milton and Esther (Schwartzkopf) Wendler.

Donnie held various jobs, including Kersten Lumber Mill, Ducat Trucking, fuel truck delivery for Schroeder Oil and helped at Hartleben Farms occasionally.

He enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packers and "Family Feud," and he watched "Seinfeld" every night.



Donnie is survived by two children, Bryan Wendler, Shawano and Amanda (Brian Pliska) Wendler, Stevens Point; siblings, Ilene (Jerry) Bohlman, Clintonville, Beverly (Dave

Babcock) Radun, Leonard (Jean) Wendler, Neenah, Violet (Chuck) Peterson of Ontonagon, Michigan, Alice (Frank) Bohlman, of Eland, Kenny (Mary) Wendler and Den-

nis (Pam) Wendler, both of Neenah; many nieces, nephews; other relatives and friends; and his special friend and companion, his dog, Rover.

Donnie was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Rose Sutheimer and Barbara Lyon; one brother, Milton Jr.; two nephews, Scott Bohlman and Mark Sutheimer; three brothers-in-law, Riley Sutheimer, Bobby Thorson and Lee Radun, and one sister-in-law, Cathy Wendler.

The family would like to express its gratitude to LeRoy Hospice for his care from April to August and to

Aspirus Hospital, Antigo, Wausau and Hospice House for their care and compassion this last month. It will never be forgotten.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wittenberg, with Rev. Matthew Christians presiding.

Visitation was Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg, is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.

Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

## Alice P. Stautz

Alice P. Stautz (nee Backhaus), 89, of Shawano, formerly of West Bend, passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Monday, Nov. 23, 2020. She is now dancing with the love of her life, Jerry.

Alice was born April 27, 1931, to the late Harvey and Margaret (nee McElhatton) Backhaus in Kewaskum. On April 29, 1950, she was united in marriage to Jerome Stautz at Peace United Church of Christ in Kewaskum, where they met as children and became high school sweethearts. Alice always made life special for her husband, four children and her grandchildren. She was employed as a school crossing guard and school secretary at Barton and Jackson elementary schools.

Alice loved to read throughout her lifetime and loved reading and playing

board games with her grandchildren. Alice and Jerry enjoyed their retirement years at Cloverleaf Lakes where they made many friends. In the last few years, she enjoyed playing cards with her friend and dinner pal, Dolly, at Memory Care. They truly enjoyed each other's company. Alice will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Those Alice leaves behind to cherish her memory include her four children, Karen (Gary) Moll, of Weston, Rick (Lori Fellenz) Stautz, of Marshfield, Laurie Cummings, of Suring, and Lisa (Scott) Abel, of Green Bay; seven grandchildren, John Moll, Theran (Linda Pergola) Stautz, Meg (Matt) Hilscher, Ian (Julie) Stautz, Nathan (Lisa) Fechter, Jeremiah Abel and Hannah Abel; two great-grandchildren, Niko Moll and Sidney Swanson with

baby Fechter on the way; two sisters, Rita (Ron) Wagner, of Rhinelander and Annabelle (Dick) Loomans, of Fond du Lac; a brother, Nic (Joyce) Backhaus, of Fond du Lac; a brother-in-law, Floyd (Ellen) Stautz; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jerome "Jerry" Stautz; a brother, Floyd Backhaus; a daughter-in-law, Kim Stautz; a son-in-law, Irv Cummings; her brother-in-law, Clayton; and sister-in-law Aletta Stautz.

A private family celebration of Alice's life will be held, recorded and posted to the funeral home website afterward.

Please consider signing our online guestbook to share your condolences

with the family. Cards or memorials to Alice may be sent in care of: Myrhum-Patten Funeral and Cremation Service, 1315 W. Washington St., West Bend, WI 53095. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Alice's name may be given to the Cottages Memory Care in Shawano or Heartland Hospice.

Alice's family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at the Cottages Memory Care in Shawano for the loving care and kindness you have shown to our mother. You all were her family, too. Also, a special thank you to Heartland Hospice for your care and compassion.

Myrhum-Patten Funeral and Cremation Service has been entrusted with Alice's arrangements. Additional information and guestbook may be found at www.myrhum-patten.com.

## Roger J. Mac Murray

Roger J. Mac Murray, 89, of Shawano, passed away peacefully Friday morning, Nov. 27, 2020, in Shawano.

Roger was born June 11, 1931, in Shawano, a son of the late Elmira Mac Murray. He attended the Riverside Country School and later Shawano High School, graduating with the Class of 1950. Following high school, he worked at Hotz Manufacturing, Weber Plywood and Veneer, and FWD in Clintonville. On March 8, 1952, he was united in marriage to the former LoAnne Laack at St. James Lutheran Church in Shawano. Roger and LoAnne made their home in Shawano.

Roger served in the Wisconsin National Guard for 30 years. During the Berlin Crisis, Roger was put on active duty and served 10 months in Ft. Lewis, Washington. Roger then went to work for the U.S. Postal Service as a residential postal carrier in the city of Shawano for 25 years, before retiring in 1991.

Roger was a member of St. James Lutheran Church in Shawano. He was also a member of the Shawano American Legion Post 117. His hobbies included playing softball, baseball, hunting and fishing. He was very active in the lives of his granddaughters.

Survivors include his sons, David Mac Murray, of Shawano, and Brian (Lauri) Mac Murray, of Lunds; four



granddaughters, Melanie (Andy Nelson), Michelle, and Myra Mac Murray and Nicole (Adam) Clark; two great-grandchildren, Joseph and Ava; his brother, Russ (Rose) Wockenfus; his sister, Lynn (Ed) Mueller; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, LoAnne, on Sept. 8, 2020, and his son, Michael Mac Murray.

Funeral services for Roger were held Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020, at 11 a.m. at St. James Lutheran Church in Shawano. Pastor Mark Drengler officiated. Full military honors were conducted by Shawano AmVets Post 10. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers and plants, the family requests memorials to St. James Lutheran Church radio broadcast in Roger's name.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share online condolences at [www.mickelsonfs.com](http://www.mickelsonfs.com).



## Richard Cheslock

Richard (Dick) Cheslock, 72, of Shawano, passed away peacefully Nov. 23 with family by his side. Dick was born to the late Alvin and Betty (Laubenstein) Cheslock. He graduated from Bondel High School in 1966.

In 1969, Dick began serving the city of Green Bay as a firefighter, promoted to captain in 1995. In 2001, Dick retired after 32 years of service.

During retirement, he and Norma built a beautiful log home on 80 acres in Suring where they enjoyed their horses together — creating memories with family and friends.

Dick was especially great at telling stories and inherited his storytelling skills from his grandpa, Mike Cheslock, as they were both good at perhaps stretching the details to make it more interesting.

Dick is survived by his wife and best friend, Norma; his children, Jennifer (John) Springborn, Jason (Lana) Cheslock, Alan (Ruth) Lloyd,



Lori Lewis and Melissa Beers; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; siblings, Keith (Jolene) Cheslock, Kathy (Joe) Olszewski, Lynn Cheslock and Terri (Scott)

Stutzman; nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Betty Cheslock.

A visitation will be held at Newcomer-Green Bay Chapel, 340 S. Monroe Ave., Green Bay, on Dec. 12 from 2-4 p.m. A sharing of memories will follow at 4 p.m.

The family would like to thank Dr. Jaslowski of Green Bay Oncology and his staff for their great care and compassion for Dick.

In lieu of flowers, the family will be purchasing a memorial plaque in honor of Dick Cheslock.

## Marvin Kaquatosh

Marvin Kaquatosh, 82, of the up-town area of Chicago, and formerly of the Menominee Reservation in Keshena, passed away on Nov. 25, 2020.

Beloved son of the late Mitchell Kaquatosh and Pauline K. Peters. Dear brother of the late Cal, Hank, Marga-

ret, Louise, Doris and Rose. Cherished uncle and friend to many. Retired taxi driver.

A memorial service will be held in the spring, and family will be notified.

Arrangements entrusted to Chicago and Cremation Options of Schiller Park, Illinois.

# Court clerk may take over register in probate

## Public safety committee concerned about combining elected, appointed posts

By **LEE PULASKI**  
City Editor

Should the clerk of circuit courts be managing the register in probate office at the Shawano County Courthouse?

That was the question that the county's public safety committee bandied about at its Dec. 2 meeting, as Circuit Court Clerk Ethan Schmidt pointed out some issues with staffing in the register in probate office. Darlene Hoffman, the current head of the office, is set to retire, according to Schmidt, and there are only two employees in the office at any given time.

"We were approached by the district court administrator for the ninth district, and what a lot of counties are doing to save money is they're combining the register in probate position with the clerk of courts, and the judges thought that was a great idea right now to move forward in

that direction," Schmidt said.

The courthouse would still have two positions in the new process, he noted, with one handling adult probate cases and one processing juvenile cases, but he would supervise the office, handle the budget and other administrative offices. The process would require having consultant Carlson Dettman, which handles job classifications for the county, to write the new position into the county, and he estimated that would come to the committee in January or February.

"What this will do is, when we have vacations or we have people out, we can cross-train between the two offices so we'd always have coverage," Schmidt said, noting that there have been times the office had to close to the public when one employee was on vacation and the other was out sick. "Going forward, by combining them, you can cross-train

staff to fill in, if necessary."

Schmidt added that the change would have to get recommendations from the public safety and executive committees and approval from the county board before the merger could occur. He said the changes could save the county about \$8,000 annually.

Public safety committee members found the idea hard to grasp, as the clerk of courts is an elected position and the register in probate is appointed. Supervisor Mark Bolin expressed concern that, if someone else takes Schmidt's place as clerk following the next election, that person might not want to be the register in probate head, as well.

"I'm not very comfortable with this," Bolin said. "This is one elected (position) and one appointed. I'm not sure how this works."

He expressed concern that if the next court clerk didn't want to manage

register in probate, the county would have to reverse the process and lay off an employee in the process.

"That doesn't save us any money, because now we're paying for that unemployment," Bolin said.

Supervisor Theresa Serrano also claimed there was no way to combine elected and appointed jobs.

"That's an ethics issue," Serrano said. "I think we need to shelve it until we get answers."

Supervisor Jerry Erdmann pointed out that a lot of counties are tightening their belts and combining departments to create cost savings.

"More departments are looking at combining and downsizing," Erdmann said. "I think that's where this is coming from. If this is going to be the trend, we should at least look at a job description of what this entails."

"Trends don't always save money," Bolin said in reply.

# Wittenberg tree lighting draws crowd

Santa stops in at WOW Art Park



Singers from the Wittenberg/Birnamwood schools performed carols at the tree lighting.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

LEFT: Paisley Anderson, Iron Mountain, has a moment with Santa at the WOW Art Park during the tree lighting celebration Dec. 4

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA



Airae Anderson showed off the ornament he was going to hang on the tree at the Dec. 4 Christmas tree lighting. He and his mother Melissa were among the crowd at the WOWspace gathering. DAVID WILHELMS | NEW MEDIA

RIGHT: The Walls of Wittenberg sponsored the Wittenberg Community Christmas tree lighting on Dec. 4 at the WOW Art Park in Wittenberg. Carols, cookies and a visit from Santa were part of the celebration. CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA



## ATHLETE PROFILE: BRYCE ZOROMSKI

## Witt-Birn wrestler with lofty goal as season starts

Most high school athletes hope to turn in their best seasons during their senior seasons. Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School wrestler Bryce Zoromski is no different, as he hopes to end his final year of high school competing at the state tournament for the first time.

Zoromski placed fourth in the 132-pound weight class at the Central Wisconsin Conference Tournament last season and fell just short of qualifying for sectionals.

**Q: When did your interest in wrestling begin?**

A: My interest for wrestling began in sixth grade. I realized that basketball wasn't the sport for me and thought I'd try something new. My uncle Duane (Potrykus), who is also the coach for our wrestling program, got me right into the mix with everybody from then on.

**Q: What is your favorite part about the wrestling season?**

A: My favorite part about the wrestling season is being able to make memories with the team at any tournament/meet. It's always fun hanging around with the team and getting to watch them wrestle some of their best matches.

**Q: What has wrestling taught you over the years?**

A: Over the years, wrestling had taught me many things. I have learned to never give up even when you're at the lowest of lows because anything can happen. Another thing that wrestling has taught me is that everything is in your head; as long as you think positive, great things are going to happen.

**Q: How did you prepare for the wrestling season?**

A: For the wrestling season you have to prepare yourself physically and mentally. Physically you're going to have to lift weights to build muscle and run or do some type of cardio to build your endurance.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Bryce Zoromski, right, wrestles during a 2019 dual against Menominee Indian in Wittenberg.

Tina Bacon

**AT A GLANCE**

**ATHLETE:** Bryce Zoromski

**SPORT:** Wrestling

**WEIGHT CLASS:** 138

**SCHOOL:** Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

**YEAR:** Senior

**Q: What are your goals for your senior season on the mat?**

A: My biggest goal as a senior would have to be to make it to the state tournament. Since I have never gotten to wrestle at the Kohl Center, that has been a big dream of mine since I started getting more involved with wrestling.

**Q: Do you have any rituals you go through to get ready for a match?**

A: A ritual that I usually do in order to get ready for a match would be listening to music to get myself pumped up. Another thing I do it move around to get myself warmed up/nice and loose for my match.

**ONLINE**

This week's college highlights can be found online at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com).

**Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Witt-Birn wrestling team?**

A: My favorite memory while competing for the wrestling team would be when Chad Moegenburg sealed the deal with a pin against Bonduel to win the dual (in 2019). That was a big moment for our team considering Bonduel was a ranked team in the state that year.

**Q: What are you going to miss most about high school wrestling?**

A: What I am going to miss about high school wrestling will be the team that I have been a part of. It will be weird to think that after this year, I may never wrestle again.

**Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?**

A: TV show — "The Mandalorian."

Movie — "Angry Birds." Musical artist — Juice Wrld.

**Q: Name one thing about yourself that not many people know.**

A: One thing about myself people may not know about me is that I am a Star Wars fanboy.

**Q: What's the greatest piece of advice you have ever been told?**

A: The greatest piece of advice I have ever been told has to be that it doesn't matter how anything starts, it's how you finish. Anything can happen, so just keep pushing yourself.

**Q: What are some things you hope to accomplish after graduating high school?**

A: Things I hope to accomplish after high school would be going to college and getting my Sports Management degree. After I accomplish that, I would like to try and get a job with the Green Bay Packers.

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## HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

# Witt-Birn's Foster named CWC-East Player of Year

## Herb, Rogowski also make first team

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School senior McKenna Foster was named the Player of the Year in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division after helping the Chargers to a conference title.

Foster was joined on the all-conference first team by teammates Emma Herb and Reese Rogowski.

Witt-Birn's Becky Rew was tabbed the Coach of the Year in the conference after guiding the team to a perfect conference record for a second straight year.

Foster, the team's libero, played in all 51 sets for Witt-Birn this fall, accumulating a team-leading 268 digs to go along with 11 attack kills, 19 serving aces and 22 assists.

"I am honored to be named the Player of the Year of my conference," said Foster. "I always set goals and try to achieve them, but receiving this award just helps me realize how much my hard work has paid off. I am thankful for all of my coaches and teammates that have helped me along the way."

Herb, a senior, led Witt-Birn with 144 attack kills. She also tallied 19 total blocks and 32 digs.

She made the first team unanimously. Only Herb and Foster were unanimous first team selections.

"Being my senior year it is a great accomplishment to be able to be named first team," said Herb. "And it makes me proud to be a leader on my team."

Rogowski, a sophomore, earned her first team spot after filling up the stat sheet. She led the team with 38 total blocks and also recorded 112 attack kills, 23 serving aces and 126 digs.

"It means a lot to me to be

named first team in the conference. To me, it's a honor that shows the work that I put in during the off-season," said Rogowski. "It will motivate me to work hard next year and play competitively to get awarded first team again."

Despite missing most of the season with an injury, Witt-Birn senior hitter Abi Fraaza landed on the all-conference second team.

She played in 13 sets for the season, tallying 26 attack kills, 16 total blocks and eight serving aces.

Witt-Birn freshman hitter London Metropulos secured a spot on the honorable mention team. She recorded 76 attack kills and 37 total blocks on the season.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

**Wittenberg-Birnamwood's McKenna Foster serves the ball during a CWC-East match against Amherst on Oct. 6 in Wittenberg. Foster was named the conference's Player of the Year.**

TINA BACON



## HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

# 3 Bowler players named to CWC-North all-conference teams

## Tigerton has 2 players honored

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

The Bowler and Tigerton girls volleyball teams each had players honored by the Central Wisconsin

Conference-North Division.

Bowler had three players earn honorable mention selections. Seniors Tynea Johnson and McKayla Putnam and sophomore Brandi Spencer were the Panthers who were recognized.

Putnam amassed 30 attack kills, 17 digs, 37 assists and seven aces during the Panthers' few matches.

Johnson posted 26 digs, 11 attack kills and 22 service points, while Spencer finished with 31 assists, 20 digs and 15 attack kills.

Bowler was approved to play in the alternate fall season.

Tigerton had two athletes make an all-conference team. Senior Adrienne Brady made the second team, while sophomore Skyler

Hauser landed on the honorable mention team.

Brady was averaging about 12 assists per match, while Hauser averaged six kills.

The Tigers got two matches in before shutting down. Tigerton also plans to play during the alternate fall season.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# 5 Chargers honored by CWC-East

## Schmidt makes second team

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School football team had five players named to a Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division team after strong fall seasons.

Junior receiver Kaden Schmidt landed on the second team, while juniors Johnny Stewart (offensive lineman), Ben Wesolowski (quarterback) and Jack Fraaza (linebacker)

and sophomore David Gauderman (defensive lineman) were honorable mentions.

During the regular season, Schmidt caught eight passes for 183 yards and a touchdown. He carried the ball 17 times for 109 yards and also threw two touchdowns.

"The job's not done," said Schmidt. "(The) goal for next year is to make first team and win conference."

With Stewart providing strong blocking, Wesolowski threw for 487 yards and three touchdowns during the regular season. He added three rushing scores and had 268 rushing yards.

Fraaza racked up 33 solo tackles,

20 assisted tackles and a tackle for loss on the season.

Gauderman had 15 solo tackles, eight assisted tackles and a pair of sacks.

Witt-Birn finished with a 1-3 record in the regular season after having three games canceled due to COVID-19. The Chargers then were awarded a win by forfeit in the first level of postseason play.

Witt-Birn ended the season with a tough 28-27 loss to ranked Stratford, a team that defeated the Chargers 35-6 in the first week of the regular season.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Kaden Schmidt runs with the football during a playoff game against Stratford on Nov. 19 in Stratford. Schmidt made the CWC-East second team as a wide receiver.

TINA BACON

sports@newmedia-wi.com

## RECREATION SCOREBOARD

### BOWLING

#### Resch Lanes — Monday Ladies Handicap

| Team               | W      | L      |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Gulliver's Landing | 21 1/2 | 14 1/2 |
| Tavern Front       | 21     | 15     |
| Resch Lanes        | 18     | 18     |
| Lisa's Lakeside    | 18     | 18     |
| Strike-a-pose      | 12     | 24     |
| Kropf's Meats      | 8 1/2  | 27 1/2 |

**High team handicap games (top 3):** Gulliver's Landing 874, Lisa's Lakeside 856, Tavern Front 824.

**High individual handicap games (top 7):** Brenda Rondeau 253, Sue Zeinert 243, Jordyn Krueger 237, Kelly Rosenow 231, Heather Schultz 227, Jenny Schrank 225, Shirley Petersen 220.

**High team handicap series (top 3):** Gulliver's Landing 2,551, Lisa's Lakeside 2,484, Tavern Front 2,387.

**High individual handicap series (top 7):** Brenda Rondeau 681, Jordyn Krueger 672, Kelly Rosenow

670, Heather Schultz 647, Shirley Petersen 635, Cassandra Eckes 624, Jaime Resch 610.

#### Lakeshore Lanes — Lakeshore Masters

| Team                | W  | L  |
|---------------------|----|----|
| Golfside            | 26 | 6  |
| Farmall Fanatics    | 22 | 10 |
| Full Service Tents  | 22 | 10 |
| Torborg             | 21 | 11 |
| Meyer Insurance     | 20 | 12 |
| Pin Pricks          | 18 | 14 |
| Dearco Distributors | 14 | 18 |
| Shawano Auto Sales  | 13 | 19 |
| Brother's           | 12 | 20 |
| Launching Pad       | 10 | 22 |
| Lakeshore Lanes     | 10 | 22 |
| Curb Impressions    | 4  | 28 |

**High team scratch games (top 3):** Golfside 715, Farmall Fanatics 655, Launching Pad 641.

**High individual scratch games (top 7):** Mark Cornish 278, Todd Schertz 257, Carson Malueg 257, David Hicks 247, Shannon Beyersdorf 236, Bill

Grosskreutz 234, Randy Umentum 234.

**High team scratch series (top 3):** Golfside 2,010, Launching Pad 1,839, Full Service Tents 1,825.

**High individual scratch series (top 7):** Carson Malueg 715, Mark Cornish 710, Todd Schertz 706, David Hicks 666, Mark Schachtschneide 658, Bill Grosskreutz 643, Ed Brusky 639.

#### Lakeshore Lanes — Tuesday Afternoon Ladies

| Team                  | W      | L      |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Lisa's Floral         | 42 1/2 | 17 1/2 |
| Lake Drive Solutions  | 33     | 27     |
| Mike's Plumbing       | 31     | 29     |
| Lakeshore Lanes       | 28     | 32     |
| Tim's Harvest Queens  | 28     | 32     |
| Spinning Wheel        | 28     | 32     |
| Mike's Girls          | 27     | 33     |
| Boettcher Tax Service | 22 1/2 | 37 1/2 |

**High individual games:** Jean Nelson 210, Connie Babino 204, Karrie Dollar 189, Julie Torborg 171, Peggy Buchholz 170.

**High individual series:** Connie Babino 595, Connie Rusch 482, Peggy Buchholz 474, Jean Nelson 474.

#### Lakeshore Lanes — Guys and Dolls

| Team             | W      | L      |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| Happy Old Farts  | 61     | 23     |
| 9 Pin Tappers    | 55     | 29     |
| A Team           | 48     | 36     |
| Slingers         | 47 1/2 | 36 1/2 |
| Good Times       | 44     | 40     |
| SSI's            | 42     | 42     |
| 4 Masked Bowlers | 39 1/2 | 44 1/2 |
| The Aces         | 38     | 46     |
| Hilly's Helpers  | 35     | 49     |

**High individual game (women):** Patricia Nathan 193, Patricia Nathan 180, Helen Schultz 179, Patricia Nathan 173.

**High individual game (men):** Tim DeCoster 225, Terry Tonn 223, Tim DeCoster 215, Terry Tonn 213.

**High individual series (women):** Patricia Nathan 546, Helen Schultz 516.

## HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Witt-Birn 65

#### Shiocton 34

Wittenberg-Birnamwood cruised past Shiocton in a Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division game on Dec. 4 in Wittenberg.

Emma Herb finished the contest with 19 points, eight rebounds and three steals to lead Witt-Birn. Reese Rogowski contributed 13 points and three assists, while Amara Schoepke scored 11 points. Kaylee

### ONLINE

For more high school highlights, visit [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com).

Schram grabbed six rebounds.

#### Witt-Birn 53

#### Rosholt 46

Wittenberg-Birnamwood escaped with a CWC crossover win against Rosholt on Nov. 30 in Rosholt.

Reese Rogowski and Emma Herb each scored 11 points to lead Witt-Birn. Jadalynn Davids and Kaylee Schram each added 10 points.

Herb also had 12 rebounds, three

steals and three assists on the night. Schram grabbed 10 rebounds, while Amara Schoepke had seven. Rogowski tallied three steals.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Marathon 69

#### Witt-Birn 44

Wittenberg-Birnamwood couldn't keep up with Marathon in a nonconference matchup on Dec. 4 in Marathon.

Simon Schairer scored 13 points to pace Witt-Birn in the loss. Ben Wesolowski added 10 points.

Jack Fraaza contributed eight points for the Chargers, while Luke

Muscha tallied six points.

#### Pacelli 63

#### Witt-Birn 54

Wittenberg-Birnamwood came up short in a CWC crossover game against Pacelli on Dec. 3 in Wittenberg.

Ben Wesolowski hit four 3-pointers and led Witt-Birn with 24 points on the night. Ben Flak added 12 points, while Jack Fraaza chipped in six.

The Chargers cut their deficit to four points with about two minutes to play in the game, but had a couple turnovers down the stretch.

# WBHS students learn lifetime finance skills

## Muscha shares passion for making right financial decisions

By **DAVID WILHELMS**  
Reporter

Cheryl Muscha counts herself lucky that “No one has ever asked me ‘When am I ever going to use this?’” referring to her business education classes.

She said of her basic financial literacy course at Wittenberg-Birnhamwood High School (WBHS), “There’s definitely an application. It’s the first time students have heard some of these terms.” All students must complete the financial literacy course to graduate. Other personal finance courses are also available.



**CHERYL MUSCHA**

Muscha defines her goal for financial literacy as “a person who can be a productive member of society. They make the right financial decisions.”

To Muscha, it also means a student will “really live the lifestyle they want” through a road map to meet their goals using the skills taught in the classes. Her courses cover real world topics like budgeting, balancing credit and debts, checkbook management, when to get a car loan and starting a small business.



Involving young women in finance classes is one of Cheryl Muscha’s goals at Wittenberg-Birnhamwood High School. She discusses an upcoming assignment in the personal finances class with, from left, Kalene Rasmussen, Olivyah Johnson and Meyah Jordan.

DAVID WILHELMS

“Many of my students are driving for the first time. They see how their grades influence their insurance cost and that’s just one little example,” she said.

The courses have the full support of the school board, said Chuck Wengler, board president. The outcome is that students are better prepared for life after high school, he added. He pointed to Muscha moving from a part-time to a full-time position in teaching all business education classes as a strength

of the district in recognizing student needs and providing the teaching resources.

She noted her investing unit usually renders even high school students silent when they understand concepts like saving even just a little bit every month can bring big rewards.

Although she brings in guest speakers, she keeps the subjects general without going into the specifics, for example, of running a farm.

She draws the line at providing

the tools and resources for students to make decisions and refuses to be a financial advisor. She doesn’t want students to ever say, “Mrs. Muscha said to do this.”

Muscha has been bringing her passion for finances to her business education classes for 11 years. Part of that passion is being around her husband’s contracting small business.

The high school recently earned recognition from the maker of the software Muscha uses for requiring all students to take at least one semester of personal finance. Muscha noted the state requires some form of financial education but offers no specific curriculum or requirements. She estimated about 30% of Wisconsin high schools have specific finance courses but predicted far greater interest and mandates in the next 10 years.

Although not born in the area, Muscha has a long association, starting with a family cabin in the Birnamwood area. When she and her family settled here in 1997, she first volunteered in her children’s classes.

After she saw what was happening in the schools, she wanted to be a part of it and eventually earned a master’s from Concordia College.

Being a business teacher was something of a change in goals for her as she originally thought she would teach math.

# State final crop, weather report issued

This year has been much kinder to area farmers in crop yields and weather, according to the last 2020 crops and weather report from the Wisconsin Department of Trade, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Fall tillage was reported at 84% complete, well ahead of normal for the week of Thanksgiving, even with the dusting of snow throughout the area.

Reporters stated that adequate soil moisture and warm temperatures throughout November have left fall planted and perennial crops well prepared to overwinter.

Topsoil moisture levels were rated 2% very short, 8% short, 78% adequate and 12% surplus.

Corn for grain harvest was 95% complete—more than a month better than last year and 10 days ahead of the



A combine works its way down a slope in a field east of Wittenberg. Corn growers in the area and Wisconsin benefitted from more normal weather patterns in 2020 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service forecasting an average of 184 bushels of corn per acre. That’s almost 11% higher than what farmers saw last year, according to the USDA.

DAVID WILHELMS

five-year average. The moisture content of corn harvested for grain was

reported at 17%.

The agency will resume its weekly

summary of crop progress conditions on April 5, 2021.

## BOOKS N STUFF

# Low self-esteem, alcohol fuel mystery death

If you have low self-esteem or are in a difficult relationship, you won't want to read "Who Killed Anne-Marie?" by CM Thompson. This long, sad tale takes place in Great Britain, and most of the 'action' is centered in an older cul de sac. Daniel and Anne-Marie Mills occupy one of about



JAN JONES

nine houses in the not-so-neighborly neighborhood. They were married almost five years ago, but the honeymoon ended a long time ago.

It takes a chapter or two to discover that a couple years ago Anne-Marie suffered a miscarriage. Depression from the loss combined with a family history of alcohol abuse quickly made Anne-Marie a barely functional harridan.

Yet Daniel can't bring himself to stand up to her or leave. Their problems are made worse by Anne-Marie's manipulative mother, Sherri, who has hated Daniel from day one. She blames him for all the couple's problems and refuses to believe that Anne-Marie has a drinking problem. In fact, Sherri often brings booze into their house and encourages Anne-Marie to fabricate tales of how Daniel treats her.

Daniel often turns to Anne-Marie's brother Peter for support. Peter hates to be put in the middle but keeps getting dragged in. Anne-Marie has learned to use Sherri's tactics to intimidate and bully everyone in the neighborhood. They are tired of her hateful behavior and wish the Mills would move away.

The house is filthy and smells, but no one cares enough to do anything about it. Anne-Marie spends most of her time drinking and crying in what was supposed to be the baby's room. Daniel spends most of his time in front of the TV, only venturing upstairs to sleep in what used to be their bedroom. She claims to hate Daniel yet would never leave him.

One January, Anne-Marie falls down the stairs and is hospitalized. She lies well enough to keep from being committed and actually stays sober for a couple weeks, but it doesn't last. After an especially bad fight, Daniel says he's leaving her and blindly wanders around the city for several hours. He eventually calls Peter to take him home.

Once there, they find Anne-Marie dead at the bottom of the stairs. The death must be investigated as a possible homicide, so Detectives Grimm and Colvin repeatedly question everyone who knew Anne-Marie. Sherri and most of the neighbors believe that Daniel is guilty, but he is innocent. He returns to the house, knowing that he is being watched

## AT A GLANCE

**BOOK:** Who Killed Anne-Marie?

**AUTHOR:** C.M. Thompson

**PUBLISHER:** Hookline Books

**PUBLISHED:** 2018

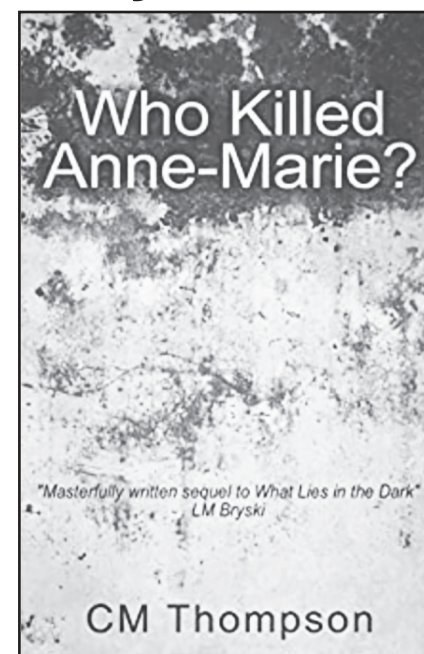
**PAGES:** 160

even though no one drops by. His first concern is cleaning the bloody stains off the stairway. It seems that no matter hard he scrubs, he cannot get rid of the blood.

After a few weeks he begins to spend less time cleaning and more time drinking and sleeping. Weeks go by and Daniel's weight balloons. Soon he realizes what Anne-Marie was feeling. Meanwhile, someone "eggs" his front door, vandalizes his car and he starts receiving calls saying "murderer." His neighbors are also plotting ways to make him sell the house and leave.

Just as Daniel starts the process of clearing the house, the police get the results of a DNA test on tissue under Anne-Marie's nails. Some is Daniel's, but the rest is an unknown female. Grimm and Colvin return to the neighborhood to swab all the women.

Before they can begin, an altercation changes everything. It turns out that a neighbor, young mother Laura, has been having an affair. Anne-Marie found out and has been black-mailing her. Laura had to deliver a bottle of booze a week or Anne-Marie would tell the whole neighbor-



hood about the affair. The women argued when Laura was delivering the booze and a misplaced shove sent Anne-Marie to her death.

The mystery is solved, and Daniel is proved innocent, but none of it matters to him anymore. As much as they fought, Anne-Marie was his life and now both are gone. I've heard that there are two kinds of people in the world. Those who have things happen to them and those who make things happen. Either one will find something worth reading at your public library. Make plans to visit soon and check it out.

## TOWN NEWS DIGEST

**Editor's note:** This section is dedicated to town notices, operations and meetings.

### Town of Almon

Town board meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at the town hall, N8096 Regina Road, Bowler.

### Town of Aniwa

Town board meets the second Monday May through September at 8 p.m., October to March at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall, W17712 County Road Z, Birnamwood.

### Town of Bartelme

Town board meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. at the town hall, N7685 Elm Road, Bowler.

### Town of Birnamwood

Town board meets the second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the town hall, N9291 Riverview Road, Birnamwood. Exceptions may occur March through May. Check with Dennis Knack, 715-449-3212.

### Town of Fairbanks

Town board meets the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall,

N3272 County Road SS, Tigerton.

### Town of Germania

Town board meets monthly at 7:30 p.m. See posted notices for dates at the town hall, W18101 County Road M, Tigerton.

### Town of Grant

Town board meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at the town hall, W12610 County Road M, Caroline.

### Town of Hutchins

Town board meets the second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the town hall, W15698 Red River Road, Birnamwood.

### Town of Morris

Town board meets the second Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the town hall, W15320 Berg Road, Tigerton.

### Town of Seneca

Town board meets the second Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall, W13104 County Road D, Tilleda.

### Town of Wittenberg

Town board meets the third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall, W17395 County Road Q, Wittenberg.

wittenberg@newmedia-wi.com

This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of NEW Media's Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald. Find us online at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com)

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# OPINION

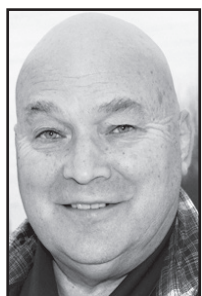
## Electoral College fights for the American voice

Do you know why the founding fathers of this country instituted the Electoral College? The founders did not want a direct popular vote; a concern was that the most populated states would control the vote. Another concern was that individual voters might not have sufficient information to elect a president, so electors are what we are actually voting for on Election Day.

Some suggested that Congress should select the president, but the concern was that might compromise checks and balances. Other ideas discussed were that each state would cast a single vote, but the more populated states opposed that. In 1787, the Connecticut compromise was adopted.

The most populated states like Virginia wanted to count everyone to include slaves, but the less populated states were opposed to that, so part of the Connecticut Compromise was to agree to count slaves as three-fifths of a person. In several states free slaves could vote, and in some states only landowners could vote. Counting a slave had nothing to do with evil; it was simply a compromise to give fewer votes to slave states, which had more people than less-populated free states. The founders were very concerned with preserving states' rights.

The founding fathers were always concerned with larger states or populated areas having greater voice than less populated areas. This is why each state has two senators — giving equal voice to low population Wyoming and high population California. Another concern was that direct popular



**RICHARD KUCKSDORF**

vote might see a president elected that is more devoted to California and New York than Wisconsin, Iowa or Nebraska.

The Electoral College gives you voice. Many in America are leading the charge to eliminate the Electoral College. How the Electoral College is put together and how it works is described in the U.S. Constitution Article II, Section 1 and in the 12th and 25th amendments.

The founding fathers did not want a parliament, and they did not want a democracy. A concern of the founding fathers regarding a popular vote (democracy) was that emotion and passion could rule the day, resulting in mob rule. The founders wanted reason and law to rule the day.

The founders did not want a parliament because the leader and parliament are equal. They wanted the leader to be separate but equal to the elected representatives, providing a check and balance.

The founders wanted a representative republic, and the Electoral College is a critical part of this. In the Electoral College system, the voters vote for electors. The Electoral College assures a reasonable outcome and not oppression by the mob.

How many electors does each state get? Total electors for each state are equal to its two senators and the number of congressional representatives. This system was designed to

force presidents to pay equal attention to the least populated state. The founders also believed in the concept of federalism. They believed that the Electoral College would enforce the sharing of power between states and a national government preserving states' rights.

Today many want to eliminate the Electoral College and your voice. Their argument against the Electoral College is based on emotion which stimulates passion. They say the popular vote is the only fair way. The argument today's liberals make sounds much like the concerns expressed by the Founding Fathers regarding a straight popular vote or a democracy.

Remember what President Barack Obama said, "We want to fundamentally change America." Liberals dislike the U.S. Constitution because it constricts what they want to do. Their justification is that it is outdated and does not represent today's thinking.

Today most states (not all) grant 100% of the electors to the party that wins that state's popular vote. That was not always true. According to an article by Sarah Pruitt, until the mid-1800s, it was common for many state legislatures to simply appoint electors. U.S. Constitution Article II, Section 1 gives the states the power to select the electors to the Electoral College: "Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in

the Congress etc."

What happens if there is a problem? What if the election is determined to be corrupt either by investigation or declared so by a court? We can look to the Pennsylvania Assembly in 2020. State Sen. Doug Mastriano indicated that Pennsylvania Republicans are considering taking back the power to select electors based on mounting evidence of voting irregularities and fraud. Mastriano stated, "If this is the case, under Article II, Section 1.2 of the U.S. Constitution, the state legislature has the sole authority to direct the manner of selecting delegates to the Electoral College."

The 2020 presidential election is a contested election. If the ongoing lawsuits provide proof and courts decide that specific state elections cannot be certified by popular vote count, Pennsylvania and other state assemblies may take back the power to choose the electors per the U.S. Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson understood that the purpose of law was to protect the individual, as it was the smallest of minorities: "All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression."

**Richard W. Kucksdorf is a retired U.S. Army colonel residing in Bonduel. Kucksdorf has other writings on his website, "Observations From Flyover Country," at [rwkucksdorf.com](http://rwkucksdorf.com).**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tax levy strengthens local protection

To the editor:

The city of Shawano's tax levy of \$14.3 million will not only strengthen the protection within the schools and community, but also be a tremendous developmental change with the heavily awaited plaza project and public works upgrades waiting to take place.

The public safety budget increase as stated in the news article is, "a good tradeoff" due to the city only paying for 30% of the expenses for

the new school resource officer, while the school is covering the other 70%. Agreeing with this proposal, I feel the schools will have better communication and awareness of the problems happening within. Communication with the new officer in place will lead to solutions to keep the schools running more efficiently and, most importantly, safely.

On the topic of community improvements and changes, the plaza project as well as the gradual city improvements will make the city cleaner, run smoother and keep its all-around well-being strong. In the article, Eddie Sheppard states, "as

soon as we hit year 10 or 11, we really start to see the maintenance issues flare up."

Taking the gradual steps in fixing what needs to be accomplished now, rather than dramatically increasing costs at one time, will benefit the people of the Shawano community. The public works staff will be accommodated to the new garbage trucks, as well as a recreation maintenance shop at Memorial Park to operate more effectively in the future.

Some questions that might arise based on the new budget is people asking, why they are paying more

than last year or are these changes necessary? Although this might be the case, the changes being made in the community are well needed to keep the city running smoothly. I know with the people leading, the choices they are making are for the betterment of the people.

There are still things that need to be changes within the community, but this budget sets the people of Shawano in the right path to make this great city prosper. This budget is worthy of our support, time and effort to make the city of Shawano in 2021 the best we can.

**Austin Kohl, Oshkosh**

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